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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: John H. Holdridge  
National Intelligence Officer for East Asia

SUBJECT: George Bush Briefing

1. In my opinion Mr. Bush displayed considerable interest in the briefing, as did his two associates. Mr. Bush's main area of questioning concerned China's arms purchases from abroad -- the Harrier, and the items which China was seeking from West European countries. Mr. Lilley pointed out to him during this briefing that the U.S. had apparently lost out on the sale of helicopters to the PRC - the Chinese have signed a contract for the Dauphin which leaves Bell floundering in the sale of its 212.

2. Mr. Bush was also keenly interested in the situation along the Thai-Kampuchean border and the implications for a wider conflict. He inquired into the situation arising from the use of Thailand by the DK forces for sanctuary and resupply and asked about the Chinese role in providing arms to the DK forces. He reached the conclusion that the present situation could continue for some time without any resolution, given the failure of any political settlement to materialize.

3. My final area of briefing concerned the Chinese support of insurgency in Southeast Asia, and Mr. Bush commented that it seemed unlikely the Chinese would ever completely drop their identification with support for "wars of national liberation." Mr. Cline also made a comment to the same effect.

  
John H. Holdridge

cc: Chairman, National Intelligence Council

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